**Tech Talent Advisory Committee Meeting**

***Meeting Notes***

**Department of Economic and Community Development**

September 16, 2020

3:00 – 4:00 PM

**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Attendance**

* Committee Members Present: Glendowlyn Thames, Jessica Dodge, Sanguthevar Rajasekaran, Matt Mervis, Jennifer Widness, Dan Viens, Lisa Jacobi, Gary Scharf and Karen Wosczyna-Birch.
* Quorum: Yes
* Absent: Bill Moschella, Monoswita Saha, Jeff Wihbey.
* Presenters: Kelli Vallieres (Gov. Workforce Council and The Workforce Development Unit); Suzanne Speece and Beth Koback (Tech Talent South), Al Bhatt (Holberton School); Macia Batista and Mickey Slevin (General Assembly Space)
* Public: Jonathon Palmieri (RexRecruiting)
* DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Beth Trenchard

**Welcome & Introductions**

Glendowlyn Thames opened the meeting at 3:08 PM with roll call and an overview of the meeting agenda. Glendowlyn then introduced Kelli Vallieres, Vice Chair of the Governor’s Workforce Council and new Executive Director of The Workforce Development Unit within the Department of Economic & Community Development.

**Governor’s Workforce Council and The Workforce Development Unit**

Kelli Vallieres provided an overview of the Governor’s Workforce Council’s activities and also discussed her new role as Executive Director of the Workforce Development Unit (Unit) within the Department of Economic & Community Development (DECD). She stated that the Unit will focus on a strategic role in workforce development across the state as an economic driver for growth among residents and businesses.

Ms. Vallieres highlighted the Council’s core priorities: Career Building; Business Leadership; Workforce Participation: Equity & Access; and Future-Proofing & Innovation. The Unit will support the Council’s implementation of these priorities. She also stated that the Council is pursuing several additional innovative crisis response partnership opportunities, such as the Workforce Training Innovation Fund – CARES grant; the Reimagining Workforce Grant – US DOE CARES Opportunity; Student 5.0 –Supporting graduating HS Seniors in job readiness; and Rapid Healthcare training and job placement program for displaced hospitality workers.

The Council’s various committees continue to make progress across several key initiatives, including Regional Sector Partnerships, Work-Based Learning, Data & Performance and Supportive Services.

**Update on Remote-Learning and Workforce Training Initiatives**

Kelli Vallieres provided an update on the SkillUp CT and 180 Skills programs.

SkillUp CT allows jobseekers to upgrade skills from their own homes by providing access to about 5,000 online Skillsoft courses in areas such as information technology, business analysis, customer service, project management, and digital literacy, among others. Anyone with an internet connection and a computer can access courses. *SkillUp CT* also offers training tracks leading to over 100 industry certifications and will provide career coaching through the workforce boards. To date, there have been over 17,000 registrations, 8,849 licenses granted and over 19,000 courses have been completed.

The 180 Skills program provides online manufacturing and employability skills training. The program is an online learning provider that has hundreds of high-quality, industry-aligned courses that have been vetted by Manufacturing leaders and associations across the state. 180 Skills supports individuals looking to enter a thriving CT manufacturing industry or to enhance their general employability skills. In addition, Community Colleges faculty are evaluating 180 Skills courses for college credit through the [College of Technology](https://www.ct.edu/academics/cot/tech) and its [Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing](http://www.nextgenmfg.org/). 180 Skills courses are directly tied to the career pathways that are offered at the Community Colleges’ [Advanced Manufacturing Centers](https://www.ct.edu/makeithere). To date, there have been 1,818 registrations, 617 users and 132 courses have been completed.

**Update on Tech Talent Fund Programs**

**Tech Talent South**

With the increase in demand, Tech Talent South is 60% toward the enrollment goal of 200 students by the end of year 2. On the graduate side, they are 48% toward the target of 180 students graduating by the end of year 2. 73% of the graduates from the first 2 cohorts and 34% from the second 2 cohorts have been placed within the first six months of graduation. Hiring partners are still hiring but the process has slowed down due to Covid-19.

**Holberton School New Haven**

Al Bhatt stated that they have not yet run an additional cohort and reviewed the metrics to date. Holberton School has had over 3,000 hours of student training. They have received over 1,400 applications and feel they need to quadruple the number of new applications in order to reach the enrollment goal of 180 students by end of year 2. They are working in various ways to find additional resources for their pipeline and are focusing on recruitment versus advertising. There are currently 83 students enrolled - drawing heavily from CT. CT numbers are up from 68% to 72% and there are also students participating from New York, New Jersey, Florida, Utah and Massachusetts. The turnover rate has reduced from 19.5% to 14.4%. One of the major goals was to increase the number of female students - which has risen from 12% to 16%, The ambitious goal is to get to a 30% female participation rate by 2023. High school diploma only students remains at 54%. Students that identify as people of color are 54%, and 20% of students participating have bachelor degrees.

**General Assembly Space**

All cohorts were completed that were running as part of the year 1 deliverable. They decided not to pursue the year 2 engagement for fear of the lack of demand of students and leads coming in through marketing channels. There are plans to submit a proposal to DECD to restructure the program for year 2.

2019 final results for cohorts are: Ran three cohorts for Software Engineering immersive and one cohort for Data Science immersive across all 4 cohorts. 73 students were enrolled, just shy of goal of 80. Graduated 65 students. 89% of the graduates from the first and 100% from the second and third cohorts have been placed within the first six months of graduation. 33.3% from the fourth cohort have been placed within the first three months of graduation. The diversity metrics were met; however, they would have liked to see a higher Latin and African American population in terms of meeting these numbers. The placement goal of five CT employers was also met.

**A discussion ensued amongst committee members.**

**Financial Portfolio Review**

Glendowlyn Thames provided an overview of the current Tech Talent fund.

**Meeting Closed**

Glendowlyn Thames closed the meeting at 4:00 PM.